

The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily

Vol. 20 No. 29

Aug. 1, 2003

What's past is prologue...

Lt. j.g. Daniel Bernardi
Staff Writer

Mindful of William Shakespeare's famous words in *The Tempest*, "What's past is prologue," Cmdr. Rich Fahy of Task Force History visits NAS Sigonella. His mission is to help ensure the future success of the Navy by collecting today's history.



Photo by AN Michelle Hartgraves

Cmdr. Rich Fahy is a Navy Historian working to gather information about the history of navy bases in Europe.

Adm. Patricia Tracey, Director, Navy Staff, formed Task Force History in February 2003 in order to facilitate the collection and analysis of records and other materials relating to the global war on terror. Dr. David Rosenberg leads the task force, and Cmdr. Fahy is its assistant director. He is busy touring various command and deployed ships in order to interview the people involved in making Naval history today.

"The Navy is transforming," Fahy said, "we need to get a picture of where we're at now to better understand where we're going." Focusing on materials involving Operation Iraqi Freedom from the 6th Fleet perspective, and in general getting a slice of the Navy in the shadow of 9/11, the materials that he collects will be deposited at the Naval Historical Center at the Navy Yard in Washington D.C.

Part archivist, part scholar and all Navy, Fahy's efforts should promote historical publications as well as a lasting **History, page 12**

Executive Department: "We are not just paper pushers"

AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

You never know what is inside a book without peering inside. A book's cover cannot always describe what is written inside. Books come in all shapes and sizes and cover art. Some have no art and others can be deceiving. It is what is inside that tells the story. In the Navy, there are a variety of ratings and jobs. Unless you have worked in a particular rating you cannot describe all of the responsibilities and duties that comes with that rating.

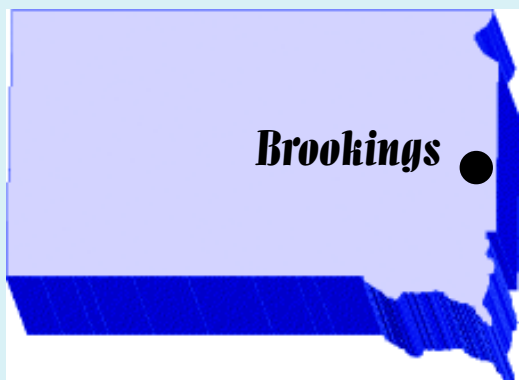
When the yeomen ratings or Executive Department is brought up, you might imagine stacks of paper and Sailors staring at computers. But do you really know what goes on inside that office or how the jobs of these "paper pushers" can affect your career or life.

"People think that we just sit behind desks all day," said YN1 Anthony Wall, Executive Department LPO. "When people think of administrative personnel, they don't realize what we do until it applies to them. Regardless of where administrative personnel work, we are key to making sure the command or Navy gets their job done," said YNCS Gary Hayes, Executive Admin LCPO.

The Executive Department provides services for Sigonella departments. The jobs include reviewing all correspondence, prior to signature from the commanding officer. They also prepare all awards, directives, fitness reports and enlisted evaluations. Command correspondence files and serial logs are maintained and Environmental Morale Leave (EML) is prepared.

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Today's Hometown Weather



Brookings

High 81° F - Low 60° F

Partly cloudy

From food to art: Mess Management Specialists learn culinary nuances

JOSN Steve Weaver
Staff Writer

A lump of dough. To some it is merely a stepping-stone to a well-balanced meal. Flatten it out in a circular fashion to create a pizza. Place it in a rectangular container to make a loaf of bread.

For mess management specialists (MSs) at Naval Air Station Sigonella who participated in a yearly Culinary Arts Course, simple dough took on many more forms. A chief's anchor and American flag complete with red, white, and blue colors were among the creations conceived by these MSs.

Instructors Daniel Lundberg and Iain Broadbent from the First Coast Technical Institute School of Culinary Arts, in Saint Augustine, Fla., taught the two-week course at the NAS II Galley, which came about due to a Task Force Excel initiative. From July 14 through July 25, the MSs learned the intricacies of culinary arts and were taught certificate courses in nutrition and sanitation. The program extends to land bases and well as ships.

"The two certificate courses are out of the National Restaurant Association (NRA) in Chicago," said Lundberg. "Once they pass this course, they have it added to their military and personal portfolio."

The MSs were taught through bookwork in the mornings, and then were let loose to have hands-on training with various cooking ingredients. "We're doing all types of sculpting with different mediums including marzipan (almond paste), tallow (fat and wax), and salt dough," said Lundberg. They also worked with tantalizing chocolates, did specialty cake work, and sculpted ice.

"We made huge swans out of tallow, for centerpieces," said MS3 Crystal Kaiser. "I'm looking forward to the chocolates, just because that's fun."

Culinary arts, page 8



Photo by JOSN Steve Weaver

A NASSIG Mess Specialist rolls a small bit of dough in her hands to create a grape for her dough creation during a two-week Culinary Arts course held at the NAS Sigonella NAS II Galley. Instructors from the First Coast Technical Institute School of Culinary Arts in Saint Augustine, Fla., taught the Mess Management Specialists the intricacies of culinary arts, and gave certificate courses in sanitation and nutrition.

Taormina kayak trip is great fun in sun



Photo courtesy of MWNR

Kayakers stop in a cave along the coast of Taormina for a break from the paddling.

JOC Darrell Crandall
Staff Writer

Having a bad hair day? Well, you could put the top up on the convertible, get some white pasty glue and apply generously to your scalp, or you can shave off your magnificent mop right down to the handle. But before

you apply the wax and yank your hair out by the roots, consider that there is a better way (really!) to domesticate that wild beast atop your head. Contact Adventures Unlimited (AU) and inquire about attending one of their amazing kayaking trips. Yes, any of the above will tame your hair, but only one will save you the pain of losing your luscious locks and ease your troubles as well.

A recent, and typical, kayaking trip to nearby Taormina and Mare Ionio (Ionian Sea) resulted in a dozen heads of wickedly wild hair laying calmly down. More importantly, at the end of the trip there were smiles so broad one might have thought someone was producing a toothpaste commercial.

A group of Sigonellans with varied kayaking experience met early one recent Saturday at the Adventures Unlimited base camp on NAS I for the Taormina trip. The participants had already successfully completed the mandatory half-day kayak training session and were ready to go. The folks at AU were ready to go, too, having earlier loaded the kayaks and gear onto a trailer obviously designed for use on much wider roads than found in Sicily. For the kayakers, it was just a matter of showing up, throwing their water-

proof (highly recommended) bags into the AU van and taking off. It was a short drive to Taormina with most of the eastern seaboard of Sicily just opening its eyes.

After some extremely skilled (read UNBELIEVABLE!) driving through the skinny seaside streets of the city built on and into Monte Tauro, the

Kayak, page 10



Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

This week, the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The amendment was designed to grant citizenship and protect the civil liberties of recently freed slaves. It did this by prohibiting states from denying or abridging the privileges or immunities of any citizen of the United States, forbidding the government from depriving any individual of his life, liberty, or property without due process of law, or denying to any person within their jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The United States is in the process of assisting, either through direct humanitarian assistance or military support to countries (Liberia, Iraq, and others) whose leaders have chosen to deprive their citizens’ basic rights, privileges and quality of life. Our democratic way of life is something that other countries aspire to recreate. People, no matter where they are, should be able to live their lives without fear of mistreatment, torture, and other persecutions.

Our forefathers came to America seeking certain freedoms and social status that enabled them to live free from persecutions and tyranny. The United States has taken an active role in assisting our friends and allies with medical support and training, agricultural expertise, military and police training, educational training, and technology and industrial support. We have a commitment to our allies to aid them with whatever they need to help keep democracy alive and well.

By the way, this week marked the end of hostilities of the Korean War. The United States, North Korea and China signed the armistice, which ended the war but failed to bring about a permanent peace. To date, the Republic of Korea (South) and Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea (North) have not signed a peace treaty. A total of 33,651 service members died in battle during the Korean War; 27,709 U.S. Army; 4,269 U.S. Marines; 1,198 U.S. Air Force; and 475 U.S. Navy. 7,140 service members became prisoners of war. We flew the flags at half-mast last Sunday in honor of the armistice.

Our country continues its proud heritage of helping those living in less fortunate than ourselves, in addition to national security interests. The NAS Sigonella community is called upon daily to participate in supporting these efforts, and we step up and do our part. We are considered a critical element in the “Logistical String of Pearls in the Med”. The other Mediterranean bases -in this string are Rota and Souda Bay. We play a vital role in the logistical and support functions for the fleet and NATO forces that operate in the Med. Thank you for answering the call.

The Pulse

Coping with tragedy

Whether directly or indirectly, every Sigonellan has had a personal involvement in the recent tragedy involving HC-4. And although you may not personally know a member of the aircrew, chances are you have a friend or coworker who does or was somehow involved in the rescue response. The fact is, when one member of the family suffers, the whole family suffers.

When extraordinary unplanned events overtake daily routines, or worse, take loved ones away, it can seem impossible to reestablish life’s balance. Things just don’t make sense and there is a limit to what the mind can process. For example, consider the times when a telephone call hasn’t gone through. Generally, it’s at a peak time. There is simply too much information for the phone company’s resources. In a similar manner, coping with intense stress and meeting life’s daily activities can overload the body’s circuit boards.

When these limits are exceeded, the body

makes a choice: deal with the pain and stress or continue with the here and now. It’s not always possible to do both well. How does the body react or signal that it’s over tasked?

Sleep is often poor. Some people have trouble getting to sleep or may not wake up refreshed. Dreams can be vivid and disturbing as the mind attempts to put some order to chaos. Flashbacks can occur as well. Concentration may be affected and it can be difficult to focus. It’s not unusual for appetites to decrease or to experience palpitations, fast heartbeat or irregular beating heart. Many people note increased irritability or may be on edge. Stress signals that last more than a few weeks can indicate that professional help may be beneficial.

It’s important to realize that not everyone experiences these stress signals. Everyone is different and has a different threshold for stress. In fact, the same stress will influence an individual differently based on circumstances. Individuals also differ in what stresses them. It’s common to have delayed stress signals as well. Once the initial rush is over, there is enough time and energy to reflect on what has happened.

While stress signals are individualized, there are some general actions that can be used to get back on track. In short, make sure to take care of yourself.

- Sleep is critical, so limit caffeine and tobacco.
 - Drink in moderation. Alcohol distorts sleep patterns.
 - Eat healthy. Now isn’t the time to go on a diet.
 - Moderate exercise improves sleep and reduces stress.
 - Talk with others who share your experience.
 - Resume routines. Normalizing daily activities keeps the mind from dwelling on negative thoughts.
- If you or a shipmate our having trouble resolving stress signals, please contact the Family Service Center, a Chaplain, or Medical. It may take time, but life will get better.

Tips for safe dryer operation

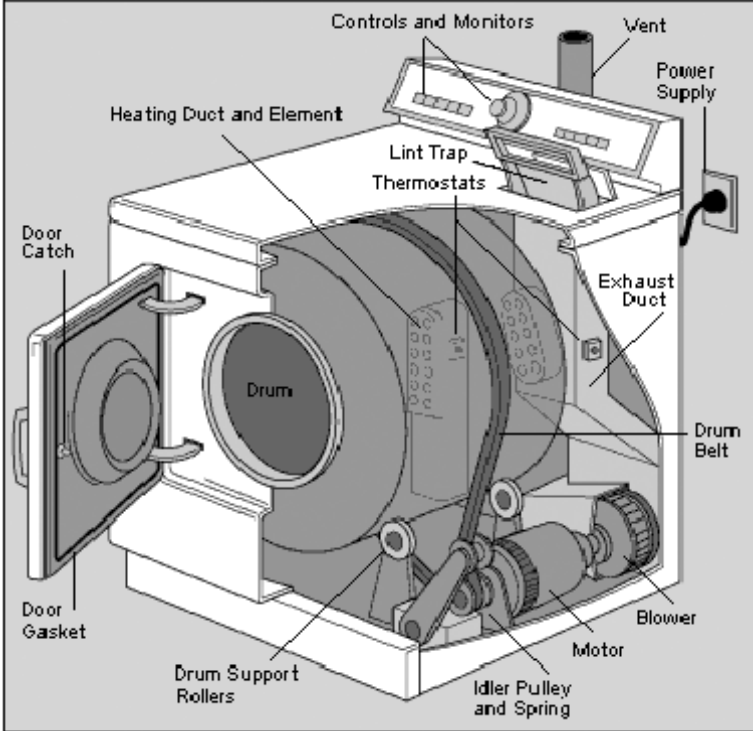
From NASSIG Fire Department

Marinia and Mineo residents are reminded to check and clean your clothes dryer lint screen every time you load the dryer. The dryer exhaust vent and outside exhaust outlet should be checked annually for excessive lint accumulation. Stateside studies have concluded that the increasing popularity of fabric softeners and constant use of anti-static dryer sheets such as “Cling” are leaving a waxy residue on clothes dryer lint screens and exhaust duct walls, thus increasing lint build-up. Over a period of time, and if left un-checked, the statically charged lint can collect and built to a point to where it will actually clog the exhaust duct, and eventually back-up into the dryer exhaust motor. A clogged motor can cause the motor to overheat prompting a fire that will feed on the accumulated lint and associate combustible materials around the dryer cabinet.

Another problem is that the thin white-plastic, or aluminum foil wire-reinforced flexible tubing often used for clothes dryer exhaust piping, is not the manufacturers’ “approved” or recommended material for this application.

In 1997, over 16,000 clothes dryer / vent fires were reported causing over 97 million dollars in damage and 30 civilian deaths. The majority of these fires were attributed to a lint build-up on the dryer drum motor.

For those living on the economy using gas dryers, you should be especially careful as to check your gas connections and be on the lookout for any



of the problems listed below.

- You notice an excessive amount of lint residue around the dryer cabinet or surrounding fixtures.
- Your dryer takes longer than usual to dry clothes.
- You have an odor of gas, rubber, or burned wire.
- Your clothes dryer keeps tripping the circuit breaker.
- Your dryer belt or motor is making strange noises.
- Your outside dryer vent cap is clogged.Although the Housing Depart-

ment has a preventative maintenance arrangement with the Contractor, you should report any of the following problems immediately to the Housing Department trouble desk.

Remember not to overload your clothes dryer. Clothes should “tumble” when the dryer is on. An overloaded dryer puts a strain on the dryer motor and will take clothes longer to dry since the hot air cannot circulate. Rubberized floor mats can become brittle with heat and can clog the lint exhaust outlet. Ensure your dryer vent is connected.

Laws and regulations to remember while in Italy

By Carmen Montopoli

Status of Forces Agreement: According to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), “It is the duty of a force and its civilian component and the members thereof as well as their dependents to respect the law of the receiving State.” In simpler terms, that means that while in Italy, military forces, civilian workers, and dependents are subject to Italian law, Italian prosecution, and Italian sentencing. This is especially true when the crime is committed with or against an Italian. If the crime concerns only military personnel, a court-martial may be in order; however, since civilians and dependents are not subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, often their only legal option is trial in an Italian court.

Black-marketing: According to Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary, “to black-market” means to participate in an “illicit trade in goods or commodities in violation of official regulations.” Official regulations at NAS Sigonella state that “All items stocked by the Navy Exchange and Commissary are imported into Italy free of Italian taxes. ... Selling or giving these items to unauthorized individuals...is illegal black marketing. Black marketing is a serious offense under U.S. and Italian law, and will result in prosecution.” The price of many imported items is much

SOFA, page 12

What’s important

By Chaplain
Richard Townes
Command Chaplain



As a Christian pastor I have spoken at many funerals. One of the Bible verses I frequently used was “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet” (1 Cor. 15:51-52).

This verse speaks about how quickly death can come. Certainly, the events of the past two weeks have driven this point home. Kevin Bianchi, Pete Ober, Brian Gibson, and Sam Cox have been changed from living life here in time to the glorious life there in eternity and for that we all are thankful to their Savior.

During the days immediately following the crash, I spoke with their family and friends and discovered that they knew what was truly important. All were Christians, all were very loved their wives, children, and parents, and all were dedicated to their jobs. Brian, Kevin, Pete, and Sam had good priorities and balanced the different aspects of their lives very effectively.

I’m afraid not all their shipmates

have the same sense of what’s important. Far too many have lost this important balance. Booze, sex, money, or material possessions have replaced what’s truly important. Too many have neglected the spiritual side of their lives in order to satisfy their animal instincts. Too many have forgotten how important their families are, hiding behind work or the pursuit of pleasure instead of dealing with the issues facing them at home. Too many of their shipmates have lost the balance.

CDR Bianchi said that what’s important to him was God, country, and family. He understood that these three entities must come before the other facets of his life. As a matter of fact, that entire crew had similar priorities. They were all vivacious men with great zeal toward life. Consequently, they lived full lives and I believe the reason for this was their sense of priorities.

Some day we all will be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye. The question is, however, will we be remembered as people who knew what was truly important? Therefore, let’s follow Sam Cox, Brian Gibson, Pete Ober, and Kevin Bianchi’s example by prioritizing *our lives* in order to live life to full-est.

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41st
Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

Protestant Traditional Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

Protestant Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)
Sunday 11 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Christ

Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Jewish Shabbat Service

Last Friday of the month 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Weekdays

Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m. (NAS I & II Chapels)
Wednesday Protestant Bible Study 4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)
For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-2947.

SECURITY BLOTTER

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE
624-6389
July 21 - July 27
The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:
Traffic accidents without injuries - 9
Traffic accident with injuries - 0
Car break-ins - 1
DUI - 1
DUI's 2003 - 34
DUI's 2002 - 35

Commanding Officer Capt. Timothy L. Davison	Deputy Public Affairs Officer Alberto Lunetta	Staff Writers AN Michelle Hartgraves
Public Affairs Officer Lt. Steve Curry	Asst. Public Affairs Officer JO1 Craig Coleman	Editor JO2 (SW) Brian Johnson
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NAVY NEWS

NAVCHAPGRU and MSC team up to backload equipment from Iraq

By PH2 Veronica Birmingham, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander 5th Fleet Public Affairs

PORT SHUEIBA, Kuwait (NNS) — As combat operations in Iraq drew to a close in May, military leaders were already planning how to withdraw the enormous amount of equipment and material taken into the war zone.

Recently, military units began blazing a trail from Baghdad, down through the Euphrates Valley into Port Shueiba, Kuwait, with thousands of wheeled vehicles, trailers, tanks, steel bridges, bulldozers and general cargo, in a combined military effort to backload equipment out of Iraq.

Like the longhorn wranglers of the Old West, the men and women of the U.S. Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group (NAVCHAPGRU) began corralling the mammoth metal beasts into a 950-foot floating pen known as USNS Charlton (T-AKR 314).

Even though team members work steady eight hour shifts under the scorching Kuwaiti sun, their resolve is apparent.

“The heat here is intense all the time,” said Storekeeper 1st Class (SW) Darl Cord Jr., “but we keep plugging away, because we know the job has to get done.” Beyond Cord’s sun-bleached eyelashes in his sun-shot eyes brewed a pride and self-respect that showed clearly.

“At times it’s hard to see the overall effort, but when we see the Marine’s equipment all beat up and riddled with bullet holes, we realize there is a bigger event going on besides what we are doing,” said Cord, while kneading his hands, toughened from the effects of rearing and roping a 35-ton tank. “Our little niche we have of loading equipment on this ship fits into the Navy’s overall mission in a very vital way. What we do needs to be done in a timely manner. It’s small, but it’s important.”

His job doesn’t end with a hard day’s labor. At NAVCHAPGRU’s homeport in Williamsburg, Va., he is the leading petty officer for the Curriculum Inspectional Standards Office. He is in charge of instructing active-duty and naval Reserve members of the battalion to become master training specialists. Along with that responsibility, he is also the Master Training Specialist program coordinator.

“We are effective at what we do, because we are highly trained,” Cord said.

Their expertise was needed all over the world. Before arriving in Kuwait in December, NAVCHAPGRU provided logistics support during the annual resupply of the National Science Foundation facility in Antarctica.

“I went from absolute cold to absolute heat in the same year,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class (AW) Robert Smith. Smith is the hatch team’s primary crane operator, and he operates Charlton’s twin 110-ton, single pedestal cranes. He explained that operating a crane is not like operating a forklift. “If you ever used an etch-a-sketch and tried to draw a line at an angle... operating a crane is kind of like that,” said Smith.

Neatly organized equipment, like pieces of a puzzle, sat patiently on blistering hot asphalt waiting for the loadmaster to find their rightful place. Forty-foot long CON-EX boxes define the yard, securing a ship-side boundary. From his pod in the crane overlooking the expanse of the yard, Smith gently reared the weary beasts of war into the hull of the ship, where they were met by NAVCHAPGRU Sailors with lash-



Members of the Navy's cargo handling and port group (NAVCHAPGRU) guide a U.S. Marine forklift as it is lifted by crane onto the Military Sealift Command ship USNS Charlton (T-AKR 314). The equipment is part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (1st MEF), which is returning to the U.S. after participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom

ing equipment who secured them to the deckplates of the ship.

Charlton is one of 20 Large, Medium Speed RO/ROs (LMSR), commonly referred to as roll-on/roll-off ships, operated by Military Sealift Command. When not transporting military equipment and supplies, the ship is prepositioned with U.S. military combat equipment on Diego Garcia. Twenty-nine merchant mariners make up her crew.

“I’ve been particularly pleased with how well members of NAVCHAPGRU have been working with the crews of the MSC ships, especially the Charlton,” said Capt. Tony Heimer, commander, Afloat Prepositioning Ships Squadron 4. “The active-duty members are a great group of people, working their tails off. Of course, the merchant mariners on Charlton are an impeccable group who have risen to the occasion, making the back load process smooth.”

Three hatch teams, working in eight-hour shifts around the clock, can fully load an LMSR’s 394,000 square feet of cargo stowage area in about four days. In order to help complete the mission on time, NAVCHAPGRU personnel lived aboard the ship.

“It was much better to stay on the ship, because we

didn’t have to waste a lot of time getting to work,” said Seaman Apprentice Joann Sanchez. “I’ll miss this ship a lot. The ship is comfortable, and the crew are real nice. I am looking forward to working on loading another USNS ship after this one.”

NAVCHAPGRU is homeported in Williamsburg, Va. The active-duty unit consists of 266 combat stevedores. They are an expeditionary unit that deploys worldwide in support of maritime cargo operations. They have the secondary mission of training the 12 Naval Reserve cargo handling training battalions. The unit is divided into independent mission detachments, each one fully capable of deploying as a self-sustaining unit anywhere in the world. NAVCHAPGRU pools members from the Navy community to form a well-rounded unit. Hospital corpsmen, storekeepers and boatswain’s mates are just a few of the Sailor’s who make up this unique community. Currently, NAVCHAPGRU is forward-deployed to the Arabian Gulf as part of the naval support element in the Central Command area of responsibility.

Recap SIG 2.3 CORNER

On July 21, we inspected the natural gas connection constructed by SmediGas near SS192 between Barracks 171 and 172. Although there are a couple of minor things left to do, such as identification signs and warning labels, we’re ready to go. We will walk through the gas line installation that we have been installing in Forrestal and Sherman Roads and plan to activate the natural gas system on Aug. 4. The natural gas is cleaner burning and more efficient than the fuel oil we have been using and we are looking forward to the new efficiencies. The two new central energy buildings will be using the natural gas, as will some of the appliances in the new galley. From an environmental and energy efficiency standpoint this is a big step forward for NAS 1.

How SIG 2.3 Affects You: We had a chance to remove the power poles and power lines, and get the first course of asphalt paving done in front of the Stephen Decatur School before school starts. We worked with the exchange, commissary and Supply Department to route the delivery trucks through the main gate, instead of using the side gate during this construction period. From July 28, through Sept. 1 the side (commercial) gate will be closed. Remember that school will be starting on Sept. 2, so the school busses will be using the loop road around the park and that road will be closed, except on weekends, to all POV traffic.

If you have any questions about SIG 2.3 construction, contact LT Darren Hale at haled@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

1-866-U-ASK-NPC becomes fleet’s single access point to Navy Personnel Command

By JO2 Laura Goulding, Navy Personnel Command Center for Career Development

MILLINGTON, Tenn (NNS) — Sailors soon will have just one toll free phone number to remember for getting information on personnel issues, such as advancement, pay and benefits, status of orders and Perform to Serve.

Navy Personnel Command is in the process of consolidating approximately 30 independent toll-free numbers to connect to 1-866-U-ASK-NPC and the Web-based Customer Service Center (CSC) at www.staynavy.navy.mil, to enhance its service to the fleet by becoming the single contact/access point for all active, Reserve and retired Sailors and their families.

When calls are received on the old numbers, they will be rerouted to the CSC where agents will be prepared to either answer their questions or route them to the subject matter experts. By Sept. 1, the toll-free numbers will be discontinued, and callers will receive a referral message to use the 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672/DSN 882-5672).

Since CSC’s establishment in May 2002, they have provided personalized customer service to nearly a half million active, Reserve and retired Sailors and their families on a variety of pay, service record and promotion issues.

“By aligning the NPC access point for the fleet to one clearly identifiable toll-free number, 1-866-U-ASK-NPC, we will help thousands of servicemembers and their families, and alleviate confusion as to what number to call at NPC for a particular personnel/career-related inquiry. The NPC Customer Service Center will do what it takes to ensure inquiries are addressed and answered quickly and comprehensively. This is but one way NPC is focusing on the career information needs and Quality of Life of its customers,” stated Capt. Jim Gigliotti, director, Center for Career Development.

For all career information questions, contact 1-866-U-ASK-NPC or visit www.staynavy.navy.mil.

Amphibious ship San Antonio christened

By JOC David Nagle, Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS (NNS) — “I christen thee San Antonio!”

With those words and the crack of a bottle of Texas sparkling wine over the bow, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas christened the lead ship of the Navy’s newest class of amphibious warship.

Hundreds of invited guests and shipyard employees were on hand as San Antonio (LPD 17) was christened during a ceremony July 19, at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems (NGSS) Avondale Operations in New Orleans.

“We are christening today the most advanced amphibious ship ever built,” said Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, during his address at the ceremony. “It is the first of a ship class that will take our Navy and Marine Corps team, as well as the nation, far into the 21st century.”

San Antonio is the first ship named in honor of the city of San Antonio.

“The spirit, the gloried past, and the stubborn courage of the Alamo will sail inside San Antonio and every ship in the class,” said Hutchison, San Antonio’s sponsor. “For the San Antonio and its crew, we know they will serve with the same distinction that their forebearers did, and the fight for freedom will never be lost.”

San Antonio is a ship of many other firsts. It is the first surface ship ever designed in “virtual reality,” using computer modeling to design most of the ship before any steel was ever cut.

San Antonio, page 13

News Briefs

Spades Tournament

There will be a spades tournament on Aug. 2 at Live Wire starting at 1 p.m. Anyone can play. Trophies will be given for first second and third place winners. Bottles of champagne and cash prizes will go to the first place winner. All beverages must be purchased at the bar. For more information or prices contact Isaiah Sellers at 340-1502676 or 095-7553036.

New Hours

Do you have questions and no time? Need help but can't make it here on time. Can't call the states because we are not open late enough. It has now gotten better because FFSC have extended their hours from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Marriage Seminar

Is the honeymoon over? Does your marriage need a boost? Join the four-part couple's group starting on Aug. 7, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Community bldg, NAS I, Room 203. Call 624-4291 for more information.

School Sports Physical

There will be a Sports Physical Clinic for the upcoming school year on Aug 28. All middle and high school students planning to play sports during the school year can stop by the school cafeteria from 9 a.m. to noon. You can pick up the physical form at the hospital or SAO office and complete prior to clinic. Parents must be present with student unless he/she is already enrolled in teen clinic. No appointments are needed. First come first serve. Call 624-4281/4284.

Lifeguards needed

MWR is immediately hiring certified lifeguards. The position offers good pay and flexible hours.

For more information call Rich at 624-5335.

Donations needed

The Sigonella Animal Welfare Society (SAWS) are looking for donations of towels, blankets, misc. cat items, litter pans and food bowls. We are in desperate need of these items for our stray facility and foster animals.

Donations may be left at the Base Veterinary Clinic. Call Jill Michalski at 624-4258 or 340-5039247.

THE ENERGY BLOCK

With the heat, people are stretching out those water hoses and connecting the sprinklers to keep the nice green plush yards. The problem occurs when one goes into the house after turning it on. After three to five hours of watering the grass, some remember to turn off the sprinklers. Others don't and the sprinklers remain on throughout the night wasting a large quantity of water. Leaving the water running while washing your car, dishwashers half-full, washing machines that are set full load but partially full, are other wasteful habits.

Because of this and other excess water usage we will continue to have water shortages in Mineo housing and other areas. There is just no way to keep up with the demand. It is the responsibility of everyone to regulate his or her water use. Neighbors need to remind neighbors when they see water being abused. Maintaining proper water usage during these summer months helps to prevent these shortages. Last year NASSIG used nearly 258 million gallons of water or 700,000 gallons per day. The water was drawn from wells and pumped to NAS I and NAS II facilities, where it was treated due to the high content of minerals. Now known as potable, or drinking water is then routed to all the buildings on both bases. This is done at a staggering price of nearly \$4.80 per 1000 gallons or \$3,360 a day or \$1,226,400 a year.

Some helpful hints

1. Water all plants and grass in the early morning or evenings using the sprinkler for no more than 10 min per section of yard. (People, only one inch of the topsoil has to be watered, the rest is run off.) The more water put down does not mean the grass grows faster.
 2. We can all save water by installing inexpensive low-faucet aerators for sinks and for showerheads.
 3. Take showers instead of baths
 4. If you find any leaks, report them immediately to your maintenance personnel.
 5. When brushing teeth or shaving please do not leave water running continually. Take care and be conservative so that there will be enough water for everyone to enjoy.
- *DID YOU KNOW: A dripping faucet can waste up to 20 gallons of water a day.
*DID YOU KNOW: A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day.
*DID YOU KNOW: The United States uses over 400 billion gallons of water everyday.

LETS USE, NOT ABUSE



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Peach & Pear Festival in Maniace

The annual mouthwatering *Sagra delle Pesche & Pere* (Peach & Pear Festival) is a great way to recognize the Maniace peach and pear industry. This year the *sagra*, which will be held on Aug. 2 and 3, will be celebrating its 10th anniversary. On the first day, the festival begins at 5 p.m. in piazza dell’Autonomia. On Aug. 3, booths, which also feature local produce and arts and crafts, open at 10 a.m. In the evening at 7 p.m., festivalgoers can sample the traditional peach and pear pies. A music show ends the festival at 9 p.m.

Maniace is a small town situated on a fertile valley crossed by the Simeto River bounded by the Nebrodi Mountains. It became an autonomous municipality in 1981 when it separated from the city of Bronte. Maniace’s economy is mainly agricultural with an extensive production of peaches, pears apples, olives, grapes and dairy products. Cattle breeding and sheep farms is also developed in the area.

Maniace’s origin is linked to the victory that Byzantine General Giorgio Maniace obtained over Saracens in this area in 1040. To celebrate that victory, Maniace placed a Byzantine icon depicting the Virgin Mary on the site of the battle. In 1173, a Benedictine church was erected to preserve this venerated religious image. After the building of the church the Benedictine and Basilian monks erected the rest of the complex using it as a monastery. The chapel is fascinating for its simplicity. It was built with a nave and two aisles according to the Benedictine tradition. The portal is a perfect example of Gothic-Norman style. It is composed of 10 marble and sandstone carved capitals. Outside, in the courtyard there is lava cross that is dedicated to the memory of the Admiral Horatio Nelson, the unlucky hero of Trafalgar.

In 1799, King Ferdinando III of Naples donated, the complex to Nelson, as sign of gratitude for having him restored on the throne of Naples, putting down a local riot.

The abbey and its beautiful surrounding countryside were given to Nelson together with the title of Duke of Bronte. Nelson turned the abbey into a castle. Generally, historic chronicles tell that Nelson never actually stayed at his Sicilian “summer house.” But recent studies seem to deny this theory. According to a historian, the British Admiral was at Bronte’s castle for few days together with his lover Lady Hamilton. This woman was Nelson’s great passion. She nursed him through illness and was always at his side during public events. She also acted as his

interpreter in diplomatic discussions and public events while they were in Naples. The chronicles of the time even tell about an exchange of engagement rings with Emma before Nelson left for the tragic battle of Trafalgar.

Altogether, seven dukes owned the castle; the first one was Nelson’s niece Lady Charlotte Bridport. The latest, Alexander Nelson Hood Viscount of Bridport sold all the properties in 1981 to the city of Bronte.

The castle, the gardens, the Duke’s apartments and the church can be visited daily except Monday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 7 p.m. The cost of a ticket is €; 2,60; groups of more than 10 persons € 1,60; children (under 10) and seniors (over 65) € 1,30. For more information call 095-690018.

Music Festival continues in Taormina

The Taormina Music Festival continues to bring internationally acclaimed music, including opera shows and rock music, to Sicily. The festival, which ends on Aug. 19, is held at the ancient *Teatro Greco* or Greek Theater.

Aug. 12/16 - 9:30 p.m. – Turandot.

The last opera by Giacomo Puccini, it was first performed on April 25, 1926 at the *Teatro alla Scala* in Milan. This fascinating opera featuring the touching aria “Nessun Dorma” (“No one sleeps”) is set in Peking and tells the story of the embittered Princess Turandot, who demands that her suitors answer three riddles to win her hand, or face execution. When a bold stranger unexpectedly wins the contest, she eventually learns the true meaning of love.

Aug. 14/17 - 9:30 p.m. – La Traviata.

Based on the Alexandre Dumas’ book, *La Dame Aux Camélias*, *La Traviata* or The Woman Gone Astray tells the tormenting story of Violetta Valéry, a Parisian courtesan, who is suffering from tuberculosis,



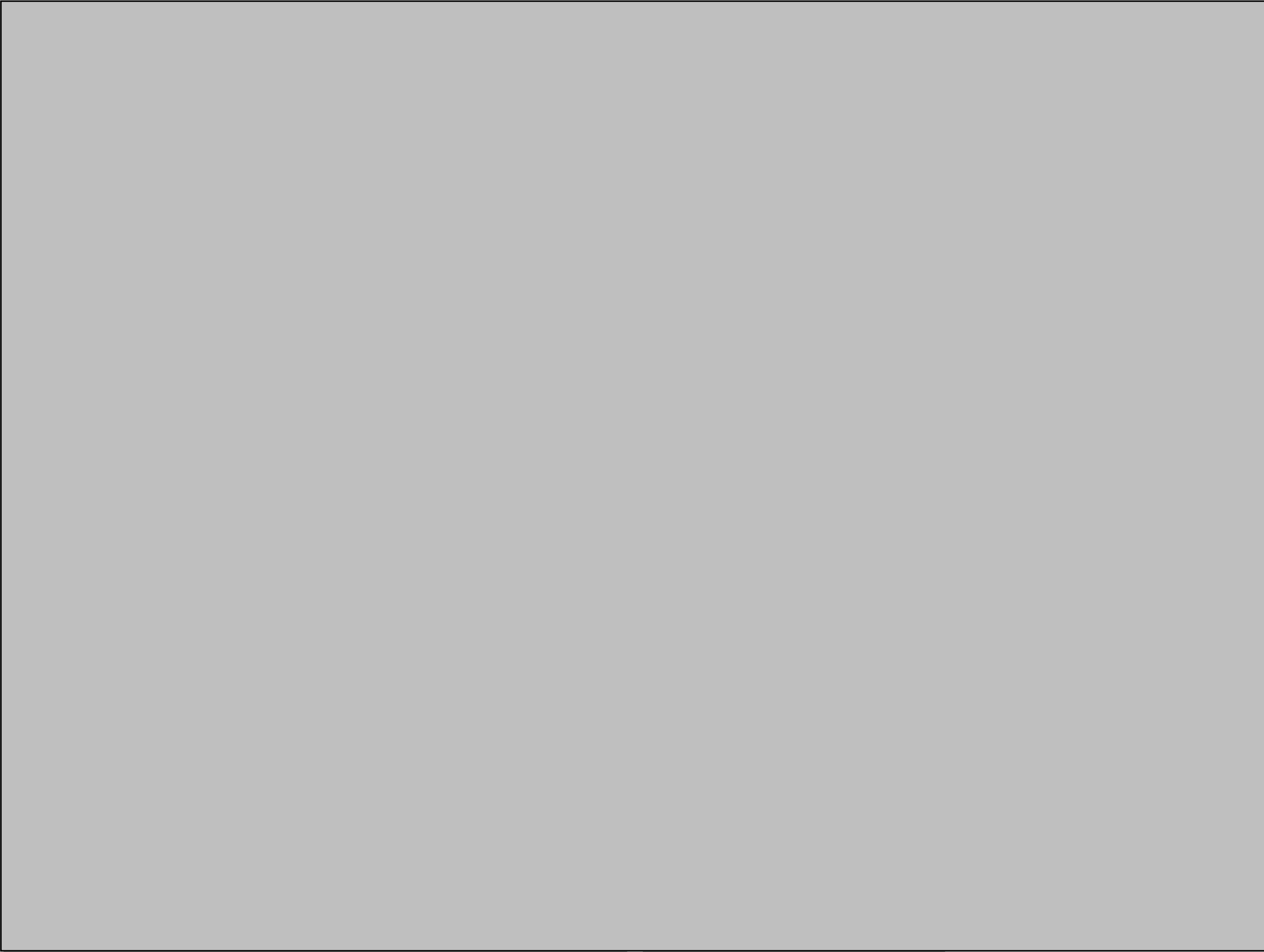
La Traviata, a Giuseppe Verdi three-act opera will be staged on Aug. 14 and 17 at the Greek Theater. This show is one of the highlights of the Taormina Music Festival that continues through Aug 19.

who falls in love with Alfredo, a young man from a high-class family. Alfredo’s family, which wants to avoid social embarrassment, hinders their relationship. Violetta is forced to give up the only man she has ever truly loved to protect the honor of Alfredo’s family. Set in 19th century Paris, this opera scandalized audiences at its premiere in 1853.

Aug. 19 - 9:30 p.m. –A Tribute to the Pink Floyd. The Italian rock band “Big One” renowned for their stunning celebration of the music of Pink Floyd, one of the world’s greatest rock icons, will present the evergreen hits of the legendary British band.

For additional information and tickets, click on the following web site: www.ticketone.it .You can also call *Taoarte* 0942-21142. Tickets will also be on sale at the following travel and ticket agencies: La Duca Viaggi 095-7222295, Ticket’s 095- 7225340 and Il Drappoggio 095-7410585.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY			
<div>COMMUNITY CALENDAR</div>										1	Taormina & Giardini Naxos ITT Call 624-4396		2	Teen Water Day free Mineo Comm. Bldg Call 624-0046	
3	Cefalu & Castelbuono Agrituristic Farm ITT Call 624-4396		4	Walleyball Clinic until Aug 8 Nas II Gym 5 to 6:30 p.m. Call 624-2710		5	Pool Tournament 7 p.m. NAS I Barracks #170 Call 624-5187		6	Siracusa and Beach ITT Call 624-4396		7	Troina: Madonna Dei Cerami Festival ITT Call 624-4396		
8			9			10			11			12			
10	Camp Trip to Southern Mt. Etna Liberty Call 624-5187		11	Amazing All-Star Replay Zone until Aug 15 Youth Center Call 624-3712		12	VA Representative Appointment 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. FFSC Call 624-4291		13	Community Flea Market 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. place TBA Call 624-4171 to sign up a table		14	Piazza Armenia and Medieval Festival ITT Call 624-4396		
15			16			17			18			19			
17	Palermo Trip ITT Call 624-4396		18	Walleyball Tourney NAS II Gym time TBA Call 624-2710		19	Pre-teen Twister Contest 4 to 5 p.m. Mineo Rec Center		20	Rainbow Playgroup 10 to 11 p.m. 205 Housing		21	Indoc (part one) every thur 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Community Bldg Indoc room		
22			23			24			25			26			
24	Agrigento & the Turkish Steps ITT Call 624-4396		25	Free Tennis Clinic until Aug. 29 5 to 6:30 p.m. NAS II Courts Call 624-2710		26			27	Rainbow Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing		28	Youth Sports Physical 9 a.m. to noon Stephen Decatur Cafeteria Call 624-4281		
29			30												
													Kayaking Trip to San Vito lo Capo AU Call 624-4271		



Word Find

Breeds of Cats

R A L H H C R R X E Y B U R M E S E L C T E F B R
I I R R I A O I I E L L O D G A R I O D S X G R I
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ABYSSINIAN
AMERICAN BOBTAIL
AMERICAN CURL
AMERICAN SHORTHAIR
AMERICAN WIREHAIR
ANGORA
ASIAN SEMI-LONGHAIR
ASIAN SHORTHAIR
AUSTRALIAN MIST
BALINESE

BENGAL
BOMBAY
BRAZILIAN SHORTHAIR
BRITISH ANGORA
BRITISHSHORTHAIR
BURMESE
BURMILLA
CALIFORNIA SPANGLED
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CHANTILLY

CHARTREUX
CHERUBIM
COLORPOINT
LONGHAIR
COLORPOINT
SHORTHAIR
CORNISHREX
DEVONREX
EGYPTIAN MAU
EUROPEAN
SHORTHAIR
EXOTIC SHORTHAIR
HAVANA BROWN
HIMALAYAN
JAPANESE BOBTAIL
JAVANESE
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MAINE COON
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MANX
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NEBELUNG
NORWEGIAN
FORESTCAT
OCICAT
OJOS AZULES
ORIENTAL LONGHAIR
ORIENTAL
SHORTHAIR
PIXIE BOB
RAGAMUFFIN
RAGDOLL
RUSSIAN BLUE
SCOTTISH FOLD
SELKIRK REX
SIAMESE
SINGAPURA
SOKOKE
SOMALI
SPHYNX
TIFFANY
TONKINESE
YORK CHOCOLATE

European Exercise Tour: From the Thames to the Danube

By JOSN Leticia
Fritzche
Staff Writer

Blood, sweat and tears, are what it takes Michelle Kurak to cross the Danube River with only 2,468 miles to go.

Well maybe just sweat, a lot of water and a towel with 249 miles remaining. In the European Exercise Tour, participants climb, bike, run or walk distances between famous European landmarks. From the Thames River at 215 miles (21.5 mile workout) to the massive Danube River at a whopping 1,744 miles (177 mile workout). Or you could climb the Eiffel Tower at 98.4 feet (98.4 feet/floor workout) and finish the amazing feat to the top of Monte Blanc at 15,771 (1,5771feet/floor workout) and be on your way to a healthier you. Now is the time to prepare yourself for achieving physical readiness. Additionally, participation will better prepare you for the PRT coming in October.

Prevention is good medicine. Do you find yourself reaching for a cup of coffee or tea in the morning to drag your weary body out of a comatose state?

Or maybe your back feels like it is going to give out on you from sitting or being on your feet all day. At one time or another, most everyone experiences some form of ailment and some may even be at a predisposition to heart disease and the like. Do not fret, exercise offers many benefit; from reducing the causes of certain diseases to looking and feeling healthier. Also, other factors such as: lower blood pressure, higher good cholesterol levels (hdl), and best of all, lower resting heart rate, which means higher energy levels.

The European Exercise Tour is happening every day the entire month of August at NAS I and II in the Fitness Center. Participation in one or both categories is offered. Beginning an exercise program couldn't be any easier. After each level completed, you will receive a prize and points will be logged and posted each week in the gym.

At the end of each category, your name will be entered in a drawing for the grand prize, a heart rate monitor. Although it may seem like a considerable commitment, the benefits are worth the effort. JO2 Kurak of AFN is up to the challenge and has completed her second level, and is well on her way to finish her third. "I do it for the prizes, I have lost weight, and it is a great motivator to prepare me for the PRT."

PRT is just around the corner and now is the best time to get in shape. There are many reasons for starting and maintaining an exercise program, but none are as important as your health. Whether it be playing softball or keeping up with your kids, it is never too late to start. Physical preparedness is essential to our mission in the Navy. Take pride in yourself as you would in the work you do. The European Exercise Tour is a great place to start .



Photo by JOSN Leticia Fritzche

A Sailor tours across Europe without leaving the comfort of the NAS I Fitness Center.

Fri. Aug. 1

Travel with ITT as Medievil Sicily comes to life at the Ventimglia Tournament in Geraci Siculo. Geraci boasts an ancient and noble past and is home to the ruins of the Ventimiglia Castle, as well as numerous churches and noble palaces. Depart NAS II 3 p.m. NAS I 3:30 p.m. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Sat. Aug. 2

Join AU on a through the gorge of Pantallica and see rock tombs dating back to the 13th century B.C. There's sure to be plenty of great photo opportunities, so bring your camera.

YEE HAW! Shine your boots and extra large belt buckle and head on down to Live Wire's Country Night. Mosey on down at 8 p.m. and dance the night away to the latest and classic country tunes.

Sun. Aug. 3

Visit Castelbuono followed by a meal at an agrituristic farm with ITT. Then, visit the beautiful coastal city of Cefalu, where you can choose from a town tour or an afternoon at the beach. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Mon. Aug. 4

Hey, no clowning around. It's National Clown Week. Make the people at Take 5 laugh and get one free canned soda.

Tues. Aug. 5

Show off your pool skills in the Liberty Pool Tournament and win big prizes. Free to play and win. 7 p.m. at the NAS I Barracks #170.

Weds. Aug. 6

Join Liberty on a Catania Market day trip. Bring plenty of Euro for purchases. Sign up and pay at Take 5 by 6 p.m., Aug. 5.

Thurs. Aug. 7

Join Liberty in the Pavilion across from Take 5 at 11:30 a.m. for a Watermelon Bash. Crack open some nice, cold watermelons, play some volleyball, or try your hand at "watermelon carving." For more information call Liberty at x5187.

Pack up the family and relax at Marina Di Ragusa, a town located in southern Sicily. Spend the day at the Baja Beach Club. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

TRIVIA

What is the main grape used to make Chianti?

What song did Bob Hope first sing with Shirley Ross in his debut appearance in "The Big Broadcast of 1938?"

On November 5, 1975 this logger from Arizona was supposedly abducted by a UFO?

What is the world's tallest building?

Coca-Cola's name was translated into another language as 'bite the wax tadpole'. Name the language?

(Answers on page 9)

Movie Connection

MOVIE's Theater Schedule

Friday, Aug. 1

1 p.m.
Sinbad (PG)

5:30 p.m.
2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) **

8:30 p.m.
Bad Boys (R) **

Saturday, Aug. 2

4 p.m.
The Italian Job (PG-13)

7 p.m.
Dumb & Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd (PG-13) **

9:30 p.m.
Confidence (R)

Sunday, Aug. 3

1 p.m.
LXG: League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13)

3:30 p.m.
2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13)

6:30 p.m.
T3: Rise of the Machines (R)

Monday, Aug. 4

5:30 p.m.
Dumb & Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd (PG-13)

8 p.m.
Chalies Angels 2: Full Throttle (PG-13)

Tuesday, Aug. 5

5:30 p.m.
Confidence (R)*

8 p.m.
Wrong Turn (R)

Wednesday, Aug. 6

5:30 p.m.
2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13)

8:30 p.m.
The Italian Job (PG-13)

Thursday, Aug. 7

5:30 p.m.
Down With Love (PG-13) *

8 p.m.
Bad Boys 2 (R)

Friday, Aug. 8

5:30 p.m.
Hollywood Homicide (PG-13)**

8:30 p.m.
T3: Rise of the Machines (R)

This week on...

Mon. Aug 4 - The West Wing

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Tue. Aug 5 - MTV 2003 Movie Awards

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Wed. Aug 6 - Fear Factor

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Thu. Aug 7 - Everybody Loves Raymond

AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Fri. Aug 8 - Alias

AFN Atlantic 9:00 PM

CRAIG'S COUNTRY WAGON ON 106.0 ZFM

WEEKDAYS FROM 9 AM - 11 AM

FOR LATEST NEWS HAPPENING IN THE

COMMUNITY GO TO AFN SIGONELLA'S

WEBSITE AT afneurope.net/sigonella/

afneurope.net/sigonella/

*** Future Re-release **Sneak Preview *Last Showing
(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at



A NASSIG MS creates interesting piece of dough art during a two-week Culinary Arts course at the NAS II Galley.

They also made pettifoires (small cakes), truffles, and chicken galantine for hors d'oeuvres. "All of these creations will be displayed and tasted on the final day...the graduation reception," said Lundberg.

"They're getting the opportunity to work hands-on, rather than just reading it in a book," said MSC (SW) Patrick Carter, Galley's leading chief petty officer. "One of the main things we wanted to get out of this course was to have each individual MS work hands on with different types of things."

Kaiser liked having the chance to put her skills to the test. "I'm just happy we can work with the marzipan and ingredients like that. I've always seen the recipes, and I've always tried to duplicate them, but I don't have the proper equipment in the barracks where I work to do anything like that."

At the end of the first week of training, the MSs took a test for the nutrition portion of the course, and at the end of week two they took the test for sanitation. If these tests were passed, the students received certificates qualifying them for the passed subject.

"All this will go toward job assignments out in the civilian sector in the future," said Carter. "With the food service community changing vastly, and the new sanitation guidelines that are coming out, they started the new sanitation course during week two, which is in line with the new things going on in the civilian sector."

This training for each individual MS is very beneficial. "It's an opportunity for them. Instead of them going to a training [stateside], the culinary instructors are coming to the base to give specialized training," said Lundberg. "For the money that's budgeted for the training, the value is much higher [to bring us here] than to send a couple representatives to the states."

"This was started so the MSs from the BEQ and here in the Galley can be brought up to speed on the new programs that they're start-

ing to offer in A schools, where they're sending students to culinary schools to work with chefs, rather than going to regular MS A school," said Carter. "In the future, the credit will count toward a chef's degree."

Lundberg was enthusiastic when speaking of



A NASSIG MS cuts out sections of dough to make a chief's anchor during a two-week Culinary Arts Course in the NAS II Galley.

Signonella and the MSs here "We love to come here," he said. "We enjoy being able to be asked to come. The MSs here are very committed, but also high in talent. For the second year in a row, we're very impressed with their interest and their creativity."

"The chefs have been great, they were very knowledgeable, and they gave the students the opportunity to make whatever they choose to make," said

Carter. "This is Chef Lundberg's second year out here. We're trying to get them out here once a year for two week trainings."

The skills these MSs gained during the training will help them further their careers in the Navy and beyond. Perhaps one of these MSs will be the next Emeril. Bam!

SPORTS

Ops wins softball B-league

IT1(SW) Louis Genaro

Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Five (MOMAU-5) had won the winners bracket untouched. They faced the Operations Department team coming out of the loser's bracket. The feat for OPS was to beat MOMAU-5 twice, if they want to go home with the gold. In the first game, it could have gone either way, with both teams answering each call as the innings had come to an end. Each team would match their opponents score at the end of each inning. OPS came alive and answered with five runs to put them ahead of MOMAU-5. MOMAU's momentum had slowed down and they were not able to keep the pace with OPS. OPS won Game 1. This gave MOMAU-5 their first loss, both teams played each other again in double elimination. It was do or die for both teams. The umpires gave both teams a 15 minute intermission before both continued to the next game. As the temperature rose in both dugouts, the weather continued to be a factor. The sun glare in the eyes of the players could have been a factor in the next game. MOMAU-5 was the home team and OPS continued where they left off, going ahead of MOMAU-5, 4 - 0. MOMAU-5 quickly regrouped and added

runs in the third inning going ahead of OPS 9 - 4. As the game progressed, MOMAU-5 ressurected and continued to put up runs. At this point it seemed as if MOMAU would continue to run the game. OPS was facing their second elimination. The plot had thickened and Murphy's law came into play. What could go wrong, did go wrong, for MOMAU. Routine plays were missed and the errors would pile up. Like a spider wounding it prey, OPS had spun up and continued to weave up runs going ahead of MOMAU. At the end of the 7th, the visiting team was up by three runs. MOMAU-5 had the hammer and was making its final appearances at the plate. Their first batter had popped up given them one out. The next batter got a base hit and their next two walked. This gave MOMAU a bases loaded situation with one down. MOMAU's next batter popped to the infield giving them two outs. Their next batter, MN3 Lane, had the season upon his shoulders, and was the winning run. MN3 Lane had place one over the fence earlier in the game. OPS had debated whether or not to pitch to him or put him on for a walk. They decided to pitch and the pitcher, batter battle had begun. Lane had fouled the first pitch to the opposite field giving him two strikes. The next pitch was



Photo courtesy IT1 (SW) Louis Genaro

The softball B-League champions, Operations department defeated MOMAU-5 two games in a row in the playoffs. Operations had to win both games to take the title because they came from the losers bracket. a ball. The pitcher tossed the bone, and Lane hit the ball, and that could to be the game winner, with the ball soaring high the famous Sigonella wind had held it up and was caught for the third out at the warning track. MOMAU-5 season ended and OPS had won the PLAYOFFS. Congratulations goes out to both teams for such a exciting playoff series.

Q

Who is the only person, other than Lance Armstrong, to win the Tour De France five times in a consecutive?

&A

Miguel Indurain, Spain won it from 1991 to 1995.

The Lane

Obstacle course challenge

Come out to the NAS II ballfield and test your speed , agility and strength as you navigate through the challenging obstacle course. Sign up ahead of time at the fitness centers. Event takes place Saturday August 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Captain's Cup Swim Meet

Get out your suits and get ready for the Captain's Cup Swim Meet Saturday August 16 at the NAS II pool. Small fee to enter the event. Meet starts at 10 a.m. T-shirts, awards and barbecue available during the event. Call 624-4334 or 624-5335.

2-on-2 Horseshoe Tournament

Come out to the NAS II ballfield Satuday, Aug. 23, at 10 a.m. for some free grub and a chance to show off your horse footwear tossing skills. This is a Captain's cup event. For more information call 624-2710.

Trivia Answers

- 1) Sangiovese

2) "Thanks for the Memory"

3) Travis Walton

4) Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

5) Chinese

Kayak from page 1

mountain for which Taormina was named, the group arrived at a narrow, stony beach. A short time later, the kayakers were on the water paddling north across a small Mare Ionia bay, separated from the next by a steep ebony peninsula. The jaunt afforded a unique seaborne view of the surrounding countryside for the Sigonella Sailors.

After a journey through “the cut,” a strait between shore and a small lava island, the kayakers reached one of their watery destinations.

“These kayaking trips are just awesome,” said AT3 Jason D. Vetter, who easily fit his wild hair and 6-foot-6-inch frame into an AU kayak.

Vetter, who works at Ground Electronics, a part of the Operations Department at NAS Sigonella, considers himself an outdoorsman. “I like to get out as much as I can, and the kayaking was extremely, extremely outside,” he remarked.

“Snorkeling, and that blue, blue cave are the highlights of the day,” Vetter continued. “I had a handy-dandy underwater camera and gave it to another kayaker and he got a cool picture of me going through a tunnel in the cave deep down under the water.”

The “blue, blue cave” is just that, a cave carved into the precipitous Taormina shoreline by years of erosive wave action. The experienced kayakers of Adventures Unlimited call the cave the Blue Grotto because the turquoise-colored Mediterranean Sea filters the bright rays of the Sicilian sun creating an intense blue glow emanating up from an underwater passage between the cave and the outside world. The color is most vivid viewed through the water but is mirrored in the roughly textured lava overhead. Easily the best view comes from the low-slung posture afforded the captain of an AU kayak. “Oh man, when the sun is just right, and you’re sitting in that kayak right next to the water, it is absolutely incredible the blue you see in this cave. It just explodes blue in here,” said AU kayak trip coordinator, John Moore, while sitting in his kayak inches from the water inside the cave, his hair neatly tucked under a black bandana peppered with white skull-and-cross bone insignias.

As AU kayakers slipped in and out of the cave quietly marveling at the light show, others were frolicking in the water, snorkeling and laughing at the sights seen under the tepid water. “Did you see that starfish?” shouted one. “How about that foot-long centipede-like thing?” asked another. “Incredible!” exclaimed another. All the snorkelers saw many schools of fish, darting here and there to avoid the clumsier swimmers from above. While some marveled at the magenta rays of several starfish, other Sigonellans doffed their life vests, stretched out across their kayaks, and soaked up the golden rays of the sun.

For the time being, there was not a hair out of place inside or outside the Blue grotto.

Scrambling back inside their kayaks - a surprisingly simple feat for this bevy of boaters even out on the water - the group rounded another rocky finger poking out into the deep blue sea. After a dash across another bay, this one a bit more challenging because of choppy 4-foot swells, the group sighted land (actually, they were never farther than about 200 yards from shore at any time during the trip) and put ashore on an uncharted beach full of Sicilians and others enjoying the Mediterranean atmosphere.

It was lunchtime and the group found a cozy pizzeria snuggled into the hillside overlooking the beach. Hundreds of colorful umbrellas dotted the

sandy land stretched out before the famished kayakers (it did not go unnoticed throughout the trip that kayaking is excellent exercise). After a quick lunch, several of the more adventurous members of the group scaled a nearby lava point and plunged 60 feet to the deep clear water below.

“It was scary, exciting, risky, (and) the hard part was that it was all mixed into about point-3 seconds,” smiled Vetter. “Then when you get down you see it’s not as high as it seemed when you were up there looking down and you get back up there and do it again.”

Doing it again and again is what Adventures Unlimited is all about. The organization based on NAS I continuously plans and re-plans a variety of trips. For many people, the kayak trips are the favorite and with good reason.

“We start with the basics,” said Moore. “We make sure our kayakers are trained for everything they’ll encounter on one of our trips. For us it’s all about keeping them safe,” he added. “On our trips, I’m always asking the kayakers on the water if they’re comfortable with what we’re doing. If they’re not, we stop what we’re doing, regroup, and figure out something else to do,” said Moore. For instance, when the group began planning this most recent trip, they discussed snorkeling. Had the group not agreed as a whole to stop during the trip to snorkel, it would not have. “We consider everything,” said Moore. “The last thing I want is a kayaker coming home and not being happy with the trip. If that happens, then I have failed them in some way, and failure is not a word in my vocabulary,” he added. “This is all about having fun and relaxing,” said Moore.

As il sole slipped silently westward and shad-

ows embraced the sea, the group sidled into their kayaks and slowly paddled south. The water had calmed and the prevailing southerly winds softly caressed the men and women who set a pace comfortable to all. It was a contented group of Sailors who eased their crafts back upon the beach from whence they had come hours earlier.

“It was wonderful,” said Lt. Cmdr. Lynn Mackovick, executive officer of the Navy Computer and Telecommunications Station Sigonella. “It was just the right amount of time getting there and getting back.” This was Mackovick’s fourth stint as a kayak driver in Sicily. Although she did not compare driving on the streets to her latest sea sojourn, the smile on Mackovick’s face as she pulled her kayak from the water spoke the words she did not.

“I wish they had more trips this year,” she lamented. “The people (at AU) are great, and they have all the equipment for you. You go, you get it, they cart it there and back for you and you don’t even have to worry about it. They know where to go and they’re there in case you need any help,” said Mackovick.

Slinging her life vest onto the trailer, Mackovick quietly glanced at a mirrored window of the AU van. Smiling, she noticed not a hair was out of place.



Kayakers on the AU kayaking trip take in the scenery of one of many grottos and canyons along the coast of Taormina.

Photo courtesy of NMNR

Admin, page 11



An Executive Admin yeoman peers over a correspondence before it is submitted to the Commanding Officer, Capt. Tim Davison. Reviewing correspondence is only one thing that the department does on a daily basis.

All leave requests are tracked and incoming official mail gets routed and processed.

All that works gets put into every piece of paper that is routed to ensure piece of mind for Sailors. “We are here to support Sailors. We are here to help them do their job. We make sure everything is done right for Sailors and their command, so that everything is taken care of and they can focus on their job and help their Command achieve their mission,” stated Hayes.

To ensure a fast turn around time, Hayes staff makes sure that all references and supportive documentation is on hand with correspondence and accurate.

“My job is not stressful if I stay ahead of the game but can be come tedious if I fall behind,” exclaimed YNSN Ann Taugosolo. Taugosolo’s job is to handle leave chits and make sure they make it to their proper place. Leave chits include convalescent, separation, regular, EML, officer and emergency leave chits. “I do my job the best I can so people can take their leave. When I help people go on emergency leave it makes me feel good just to know that I helped.”

Leave chits are not the only things seen in the busy office. Awards and general correspondence make up the bulk of the paper work. “I see over 30 correspondence a day and over 150 an average week. Everyday is a challenge, but I enjoy my day,” remarked YN3 Charles Aldana.

The results of correspondence can affect a Sailor’s career such as a 1306 Co-location request or an early separation request. Executive department realizes the importance of what they do on a daily basis and want service members to know that they support them. They may push paper all day but, according to Aldana, “Nothing is going to get done with out the paperwork going through.” It just goes to say, “Don’t judge the book by the cover.”

By Joanna Navarro, Naval Historical Center Public Affairs


WASHINGTON (NNS) — One of the most numerous and symbolic artifacts in the Navy Historical Center’s (NHC) collection are the more than 2,000 ship bells. Started before WWI, this collection is also one of

Historic Ship Bells Ring the Navy’s Past


the most utilized, with the bells being found on display or in use in many interesting places. The NHC’s Curator Branch preserves the bells, one of the many artifacts removed from decommissioned ships. They may be provided on loan to new namesake ships; naval commands with a historical mission or functional connection; and to museums and other institutions that are interpreting specific historical themes and displays of naval history. However, the bells remain the permanent property of the U.S. Government and the Department of the Navy. Bells have been lent out to a diverse array of organizations, such as USS Shangri-La’s (CV 38) bell,

which is housed at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego; USS Wisconsin’s (BB 64) bell, currently residing aboard the preserved ship moored outside the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, Norfolk, Va.; and even USS Richard B. Russell’s (SSN 687) bell, located in West Mason High school, Albuquerque, N.M. Recently, the bell from USS Worden (DD 352) was dedicated at the Carderock Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, in West Bethesda, Md. Initially commissioned in January 1935, and considered at the time the “best sea boat”, it was wrecked in a 1943 storm. Its bell, however, had been taken off previously to lighten the ship. Fitted to a new USS Worden (DLG 18) in 1963, the bell continued in service until 1993. Robert J. Cressman, head of the NHC’s Ship History Branch, made the dedication speech at Carderock. He recounted the history of the ship and its loss, and quoted one of the original captain’s description that Worden was “the product of years of technological development and skilled labor, but only a ship’s hull until manned by a trained and dedicated crew. Worden is the assembly of nearly 400 men who operate the complex systems installed to make Worden an effective unit in our country’s desire to preserve the peace.” Cressman concluded his remarks by saying, “We honor those officers and men who made Worden the ship she was, and particularly those 14 men who perished in the ship’s battle with the elements on that sad day 60 years ago. We salute them today, and those who sailed with them.” Today, historic ships bells serve to inspire and to remind our naval forces and personnel of honor, courage, and commitment to the defense of our nation, and will continue to do so in the future.


History, page 12



The thing that I go into every interview thinking ... establish trust and credibility as soon as possible in order to get the truth, the details, stuff they wouldn't tell their regular daily newspaper.



Cmdr. Mike Fahy



facts. The carrier exceeded his expectations, providing a wealth of materials key to ongoing operations in Iraq. “It was fantastic,” he said. Fast on the move, Fahy is working diligently to complete his mission by Dec. 2003. A few weeks ago he did oral histories on 18 people... from commanders to second class petty officers. “What I’m really looking for,” he said, “is people at the tip of the spear... pilots, leadership, and tenant commands.” His job isn’t as easy at it may seem. “The thing that I go into every interview thinking,” he said, “is how to establish trust and credibility as soon as possible in order to get the truth, the details, stuff they wouldn’t tell their regular daily newspaper.” Wielding a digital tape recorder, he is securing oral histories from a diverse range of Sailors, including flag officers and junior enlisted, as the history of the global war

on terror involves the entire Navy. Fahy is a Reservist with Combat Documentation Detachment 206, which is based at the Washington Naval Yard. He was recalled to active duty to carry out the mission of Task Force History. “Interestingly, only reservists are doing this work,” he said. Although the Navy employs a team of civilian researchers to work on materials held at the Naval Historical Center, there was no active duty component in place to collect contemporary history until Admiral Tracey created the task force from Combat Documentation Detachment 206. A Surface Warfare Officer, Fahy was on active duty from 1985 to 1993. This is his first tour since that period. Looking back, he sees great things in the Navy’s future. “The Navy is so much better since I got out,” he said, “The quality of the people and leadership has greatly improved.” Commander Fahy is sure to collect the artifacts that will tell the story of the Navy’s efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom, how we fought the global war on terror, and how we sustain today’s OpTempo. To read more about Task Force History, as well as the Naval Historical Center, visit: <http://www.history.navy.mil/>

SOFA from page 2

higher in local stores than in the NEX, because the NEX sells its products duty-free. Consequently, Italian citizens will sometimes ask to buy items through an American with base privileges. Understand that it is absolutely prohibited to sell, give, loan, or barter anything bought at the Commissary or Navy Exchange to an Italian citizen. The black-marketing of NATO gas coupons is an especially serious offense. Italian consumers pay roughly four dollars per gallon of gas, while their American counterparts pay American prices, often several dollars less. It is permissible to use coupons only for primary (white-tagged) AFI vehicles at authorized gas stations. Service members can buy a maximum of 400 liters of gas coupons and eight liters of oil coupons each month. It is illegal to sell, give, loan, or barter gas coupons to Italian citizens. Any violation of this law may result in severe punishment including but not limited to jail time and/or fines. Firearms, Knives, and Other Weapons: Currently, it is not authorized to import any variety of firearm into Italy. According to the laws posted on the NAS Sigonella website, a prohibited firearms include “air pistols, air rifles, and firing replicas of antique firearms.” Italians must have permits to own any firearms, and gun permits are not generally available to Americans. If you wish to purchase a firearm in Italy, ensure that it is legal to ship it to the United States and send it there directly after procurement. Other weapons, such as knives, are strictly controlled, though obtaining them is relatively easy. Objects that could be used to inflict injury—golf clubs, baseball bats, pocketknives, or nightsticks, for example—are not to be carried in an area outside the home except when they are clearly being used for their intended purpose. For example, a baseball bat may be only be carried when the owner is in transit to and from a game. Even relatively common and innocuous items like tire irons can be interpreted as weapons depending on the situation, such as when they found in an unusual and easily accessible place. In areas where a large number of people are gathered, rules restricting the possession of weapons are particularly stringent. Relations with Italian Police: There are four main branches of the police service: the Polizia Municipale (City Police), the Polizia di Stato (State Police), the Carabinieri (National Military Police), and the Guardia di Finanza (Customs Officials). The Polizia Municipale enforce laws within city limits. The Polizia di Stato patrol the highways and public transportation areas. The Carabinieri are responsible for enforcing laws in both military and civilian settings. The Guardia di Finanza occupy themselves with the control of drug, alcohol, and cigarette smuggling. These police officers must be respected at all times. If apprehended, do not resist arrest, but go with the Italian authorities willingly and provide all information necessary to identify yourself. Before making any statement, request the presence of U.S. representatives including at least one member of Sigonella Security, a command representative, and/or a military lawyer. Officers of the Guardia di Finanza have the authority to stop a person leaving a business and request a receipt for the goods or services purchased therein. Be sure to receive all receipts and retain them until you have reached your home. Thanks to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy for their informational article on “Travel in Italy,” and to the PAO and ISD for the information posted on the Sigonella website.

Proper mounting for cover plates mandatory

From NASSIG MVRO

The Motor Vehicle Registration Office (MVRO) needs your assistance in correcting a growing problem with the improper mounting of vehicle cover plates.

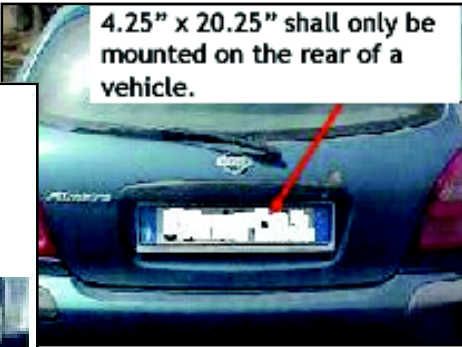
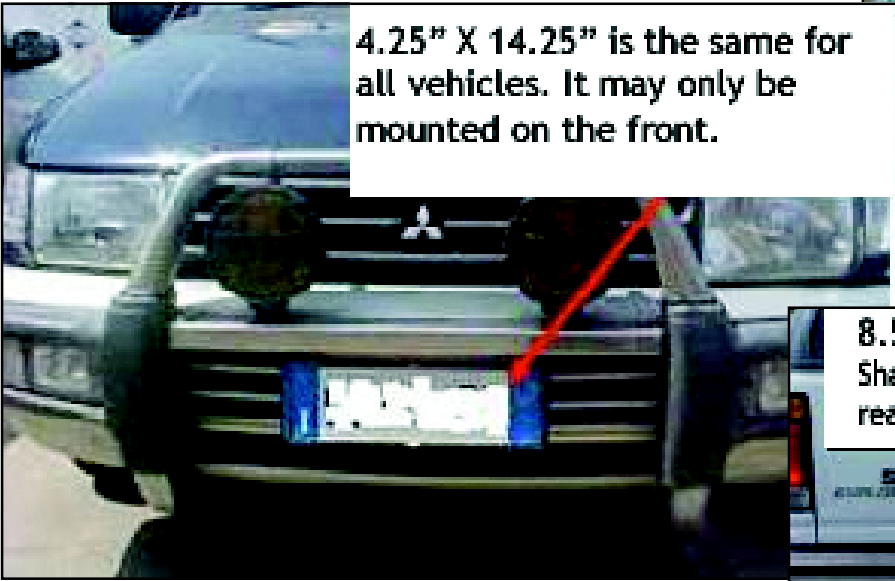
Upon receiving the cover plates, each member is required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, which states “proper attachment will be defined as the ability to attach the cover plate without bending, cutting, or puncturing the cover plate in such a way that would distort the proper view of the plate and also jeopardize the stead-fastness of the plate.”

Due to their unique size, it can be difficult to attach the cover plates to some U. S. vehicles. If you are unable to properly mount the cover plate, we recommend you go to the Auto Port for professional help. They can get the proper mounting brackets to meet the Italian standards.

Improperly mounted cover plates are a violation of Italian Law which may result in a cita-

tion. According to the Italian Codice della Strada (Article 102/7 comma), the license plate must not be bent or cut and must be visible and placed on the assigned place. Violating this article will cost you 33.60 Euro, but no points will be assigned to your record.

The second area of concern is the proper placement of the cover plates. MVRO issues two different styles of cover plates. The photographs below describe the approximate size and proper placement of these two styles of cover plates. Improper placement of



the cover plates is also a violation of Italian Law which may also result in a citation.

San Antonio from page 3

It is the first amphibious ship to support the “mobility triad” of Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAAV), Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) and the tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey aircraft, and it is also the first to feature the Advanced Enclosed Mast/Sensor system that replaces conventional masts, protecting radar and communications antennas from weather and allowing their electronic signals to pass through.

NGSS’ sites in Avondale and Tallulah, La., and Pascagoula and Gulfport, Miss., are building San Antonio and its sister ships. Dr. Phillip Dur, NGSS presi-

dent, called San Antonio a product of a “radically transformed shipbuilding enterprise.”

“San Antonio will be a unique addition of the expeditionary strike groups of the future fleet,” he said. “These ships are being built to fight and built to last.”

The first four ships of the class, San Antonio, New Orleans (LPD 18), Mesa Verde (LPD 19) and Green Bay (LPD 20) are in various stages of construction. The San Antonio class ships are 648 feet long, 105 feet wide and will carry a crew of 361 Sailors and up to 800 Marines. It will be the functional replacement for the LPD 4, LSD 36, LKA 113 and LST 1179 classes of

amphibious ships.

“LPD 17 will play a vital role in the success of our Navy Marine Corps team,” said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark in a written statement. “It will carry our joint combat forces to the fight with increased lift capability, superior command and control capabilities, and improved ship survivability. It will give our expeditionary strike groups greater speed, agility and reach, and will help us to operate from and dominate the near land battlespace, while improving the quality of life and work of our Sailors and Marines.”

Several quality of life features are incorporated in



Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, sponsor of LPD 7 the San Antonio, christens the Navy’s newest ship in New Orleans. San Antonio is the lead ship in a new class of amphibious warfare ships that will carry Sailors and Marines in defense of freedom for the next several decades.

San Antonio, including gender-neutral living quarters with sit-up berthing, a consolidated galley and improved e-mail, and Internet access via the Shipboard Wide Area Network, or SWAN.

Several prospective crew members attended the christening and expressed their enthusiasm about serving aboard San Antonio.

“This is awesome,” said Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW) Chad Rolph from Naval Service Training Center, who’s career includes a tour aboard USS Guam (LPH 9). “This is a completely new dimension of ship. A lot of time went into building it.”

“I am completely excited,” added Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jamie Labauve, a New Orleans native from Naval Air Station Key West. “I’m looking forward to learning everything about the ship, how it works and how it runs. I wish I could get aboard it right now.”

Cmdr. Jon Padfield, San Antonio’s prospective commanding officer, was as equally elated, feeling like “an 8-year-old kid with his first Corvette.”

“This is the high point of my career,” said Padfield, a Salt Lake City native currently commanding USS Comstock (LSD 45). “It’s a great honor to have a ship like this with a fabulous crew.”

His advice to his future crew? “Be excited. This ship will be the best.”

San Antonio is scheduled for commissioning in 2005 and will be homeported in Norfolk, Va.

2003 All-Military Wilderness Challenge Set for October

From Naval Support Activity, Norfolk Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — The Mid-Atlantic Region Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department will be hosting the third annual “Wilderness Challenge” outdoor extreme sports match October 2-4 in Fayetteville, West Virginia.

The annual event is set to take place with the Appalachian Mountains and the Gauley River as the backdrop for more than 300 military men and women competing for bragging rights among our nation’s services.

For two days, iron-men and women will compete in seven grueling events, including an 8-K run through mountains, a 14-mile forced-hike and a 10-mile mountain bike race. Athletes get to test their physical endurance with a half-mile swim, a 13-mile whitewater raft race (Class 3-5+), and a seven-mile “duckie” kayak race. Additionally, participants get a chance to compete in a war game paintball evade competition.

“The regional MWR office designed this program four years ago with the help of PERSCOM (Personnel Command) to promote outdoor adventure, along with physical readiness and competition. With the success of our first challenge in 2000, we have given our Armed Forces a program that tests their abilities, strength and endurance, and recognize the best athletes in all the military services,” said Michael Bond, MWR event coordinator for the Wilderness Challenge.